

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Steven O. Laing, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: March 15, 2004

SUBJECT: Earthquake Drill

The Utah Division of Emergency Services & Homeland Security is coordinating activities in the month of April on earthquake preparedness. As part of preparedness events, Wednesday, April 7 has been designated as a day for schools throughout the state to hold earthquake drills.

Experts who study earthquakes across the state have indicated that Utah experiences a moderate (M5.5) earthquake about every ten years. The last earthquake of this size was in St. George in 1992. This size of earthquake would result in the launching of anything that is not secured. Duck and cover drills are particularly important because many injuries during an earthquake are the result of flying and falling objects.

Please notify the schools in your district about the earthquake drill. I encourage all schools to participate in this activity as part of their emergency plans.

If you would like more information about earthquake preparedness, contact Bob Carey at the Utah Division of Emergency Services & Homeland Security (538-3784).